

The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising an outer member defining a storage chamber in which is stored the one or more beverage ingredients, the outer member being sealed to and an inner member having a discharge spout forming an outlet for outflow of beverage formed from the one or more beverage ingredients, characterised in that the inner member forms a load-bearing member effective to withstand compressive forces during formation of a beverage from the one or more beverage ingredients under internal pressurization.

Claim 2 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the inner member and outer member are separate components which are conjoined during assembly of the cartridge.

Claim 3 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 2 further comprising a filter conjoined to the inner member.

Claim 4 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 3 wherein the inner member forms a load-bearing member of sufficient rigidity such that the cartridge can withstand a compressive load of greater than 130N.

Claim 5 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 4 wherein the load-bearing member is of sufficient rigidity such that the cartridge can withstand a compressive force of greater than 200N.

Claim 6 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 5 wherein the load-bearing member is of sufficient rigidity such that the load-bearing member can withstand a compressive force of greater than 130N.

Claim 7 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 6 wherein the inner member is formed from polypropylene.

Claim 8 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 7 wherein the outer member and/or inner member are formed from a biodegradable polymer.

Claim 9 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 8 wherein the inner member and discharge spout are formed as one piece.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising a housing having a closed first end and an open second end, the housing defining a storage chamber in which is stored the one or more beverage ingredients, wherein the open second end of the housing is sealed by a lid, ~~characterised by~~ the cartridge further comprising a load-bearing member spanning between the closed first end of the housing and the lid.

Claim 11 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 10 wherein the load-bearing member comprises a discharge spout forming an outlet for outflow of beverage formed from the one or more beverage ingredients.

Claim 12 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the load-bearing member is located at or near a center of the cartridge.

Claim 13 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 12 wherein the load-bearing member is of sufficient rigidity such that the cartridge can withstand a compressive load of greater than 130N.

Claim 14 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 13 wherein the load-bearing member is of sufficient rigidity such that the cartridge can withstand a compressive force of greater than 200N.

Claim 15 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 14 wherein the load-bearing member is of sufficient rigidity such that the load-bearing member can withstand a compressive force of greater than 130N.

Claim 16 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the outer member has an open end sealed by a lid, the lid overlying the outlet of the cartridge.

Claim 17 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 16 wherein the lid is sealed to the discharge spout.

Claim 18 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 3 wherein the inner member spaces the filter from the outer member.

Claim 19 (New): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising an outer member defining a storage chamber in which is stored the one or more beverage ingredients and an inner member having a discharge spout forming an outlet for outflow of beverage formed from the one or more beverage ingredients, the inner member forms a load-bearing member and a flow path extends between the storage chamber and the discharge spout of the inner member at a portion of the inner member opposite the outlet.

Claim 20 (New): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising an outer member defining a storage chamber having an inlet in which is stored the one or more beverage ingredients and an inner member having a discharge spout forming an outlet for outflow of beverage formed from the one or more beverage ingredients, the inner member forms a load-bearing member and the inlet and the outlet of the cartridge are on the same side of the cartridge.

Claim 21 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 20 wherein the outer member has an open end sealed by a lid, the lid overlying both the inlet and outlet of the cartridge.

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Claim 22 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 21 wherein the lid is sealed to the discharge spout.